

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 091645Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2329

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSIO EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 818

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH REACTION TO SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO
COPENHAGEN

REF: COPENHAGEN 817

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1. ON MARCH 8, I MET WITH PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY FOREIGN

AFFAIRS EIGIL JORGENSEN. PURPOSE WAS TO BE BRIEFED BY HIM ON DANISH REACTION TO SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO DENMARK.

2. ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS. JORGENSEN CONFIRMED THAT FOR POLITICAL REASONS (FRANCO'S DEATH AND MOVEMENT ON SPAIN'S DOMESTIC SCENE) SPANIARDS ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING ONLY A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EC. SPANIARDS ARE NOW SUGGESTING THAT THEIR TARIFF ARRANGEMENTS PRESENTLY IN FORCE WITH THE ORIGINAL SIX EC MEMBERS BE EXTENDED TO THE THREE RECENT EC MEMBERS (UK, IRELAND AND DENMARK). IN THIS WAY, SPAIN'S TRADE ARRANGMENTS WITH THE EC COUNTRIES WOULD BE UNIFORM. ACCORDING TO JORGENSEN, DANES WOULD ACCEPT THIS ARRANGEMENT BUT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER MINISTER NORGAARD HAD CONVEYED DANISH ACQUIESCENCE TO THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. POLITICAL. JORGENSEN CONFIRMED WHAT SPANISH AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD ME EARLIER THAT DAY. DANES BELIEVE THAT SPANIARDS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT WITH THE EC. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY WOULD LIKE TO MOVE CLOSER TO NATO. ON LATTER POINT, DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN TOLD SPANIARDS THAT ANY COOPERATION OR LINKS BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO MEMBERS MUST REMAIN BILATERAL AND MUST NOT BE WITH ORGANIZATION PER SE. HENCE, IF FRANCE AND SPAIN WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE OR TRAIN MILITARY OFFICERS, DANES OBVIOUSLY CANNOT OBJECT. HOWEVER, ANY FORMAL LINKS BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO ARE PREMATURE. EIGIL JORGENSEN SAID THAT IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH HIS SPANISH COUNTERPART, HE STRESSED THE WILLINGNESS OF THE DANES TO INCREASE EXCHANGES IN NON-CONTROVERSIAL AREAS SUCH AS CULTURAL AFFAIRS. HE WAS ALSO WILLING TO HOLD PERIODIC MEETINGS WITH HIS COUNTERPART IN SPANISH FOREIGN OFFICE. ACTIONS SUCH AS THESE WOULD HELP NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, JORGENSEN SAID.

4. JORGENSEN EMPHASIZED IN TALKING TO ME THAT PROBLEM IS NOT THAT SPAIN IS NOT CHANGING. HE FULLY REALIZED THE GREAT CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN SPAIN SINCE FRANCO'S DEMISE. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING ALONG SCANDINAVIAN PUBLIC OPINION AND PREPARING IT FOR EVENTUAL SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND THE EC. THIS TAKES TIME AND THE SPANIARDS
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THEMSELVES ARE AWARE OF IT.

5. HIS OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE VISIT WAS "THAT THE GOOD AND OPEN ATMOSPHERE CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS SLOWLY CHANGING THE HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF THE DANISH PEOPLE TOWARDS SPAIN". HE DESCRIBED THE VISIT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER "AS A STEP TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF DANISH-SPANISH RELATIONS". THE ATMOSPHERE WAS "CORDIAL" AND DANES CONSIDERED THE TRIP TO HAVE BEEN "A

CLEAR PLUS".

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